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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,827	08/03/2001	Jai Chul Kim	HI-0038	7512

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EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THJUAN P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2642

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/920,827

Applicant(s)

KIM, JAI CHUL

Examiner

Thjuan P. Knowlin

Art Unit

2642

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on August 18, 2005 has been entered. Claims 1-7, 9-10, 12-15, and 17 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Claims 19-22 have been added. Claims 1-22 are now pending in this application, with claims 1, 6, 12, and 21 being independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3, 7-8, 11-13, and 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Curtis et al (US 6,594,472).
3. In regards to claims 1, 8, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22, Curtis discloses a mobile telephone (See Fig. 1 and radiotelephone 1) and interchangeable button cover comprising: a telephone body comprising a button portion (See Fig. 1 and keymat 5) and a straight groove formed on a side of the telephone body; and an interchangeable button cover interface (See Fig. 1 and front cover 2) which is configured to detachably

couple to the telephone body by slidingly fitted along the straight groove (See col. 2 lines 33-63 and col. 3 lines 28-30), and which supports multiple different types of button covers, wherein the interchangeable button cover interface comprises a frame (See Fig. 1 and col. 2 lines 33-38).

4. In regards to claims 3, 7, and 13, Curtis discloses the mobile telephone and interchangeable button cover, wherein the button cover comprises a bar type cover (See Fig. 1 and front cover 2) comprising: keypads provided on one side of the frame which cover and are interlocked with key buttons of the button portion (See Fig. 1, col. 2 lines 33-63, and col. 3 lines 28-30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curtis et al (US 6,594,472), in view of Slipy et al (US 5,848,152).

6. Curtis discloses all of claims 2, 5, 10, and 15 limitations, except the mobile telephone, wherein the button cover is a structure for covering the button portion, wherein the button cover is a sliding lid type cover. Slipy, however, does disclose the mobile telephone, wherein the button cover is a structure for covering the button portion, wherein the button cover is a bar type cover (See Fig. 1 and faceplate 104) and a flip

type cover (See Fig. 10, Fig. 11, faceplate 404, and keypad cover 418) (See col. 9-10 lines 65-15). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a sliding lid type cover as one of the interchangeable button covers, as a way of allowing the user to alter the appearance of the mobile telephone (e.g. radiotelephone handset) with minimum expense and effort.

7. Curtis discloses all of claims 4, 6, 9, and 14 limitations, except the mobile telephone and interchangeable button cover, wherein the button cover comprises a flip type cover comprising: a flip cover hingedly connected to the frame for selectively covering and exposing the button portion by means of a pivoting operation. Slipy, however, discloses the mobile telephone and interchangeable button cover, wherein the button cover comprises a flip type cover (See Fig. 10, Fig. 11, faceplate 404, and keypad cover 418) comprising: a flip cover hingedly connected to the frame for selectively covering and exposing the button portion by means of a pivoting operation (See Fig. 8-11, col. 9 lines 1-12, and col. 9-10 lines 65-15).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

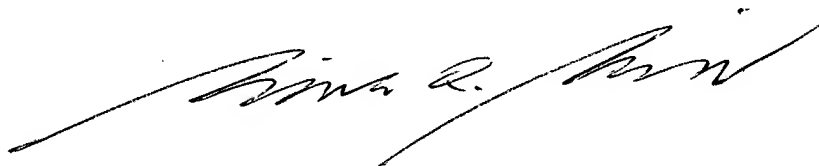
9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Curtis et al (US 6,847,806) teach exchangeable radiotelephone covers.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P. Knowlin whose telephone number is (571) 272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

11. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

12. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thjuan P. Knowlin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bing Q. Bui", written in a cursive style.

BING Q. BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER